

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 768

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS/ PINT, SP

SUBJECT: SUAREZ CONFERES WITH COALITION ALLIES ON POSSIBLE
FORMATION OF FEDERATION OR SINGLE PARTY

1. AS THE LONG PROCESS OF COUNTING AND RECOUNTING THE
VOTES CONTINUES, POLITICAL ATTENTION HAS FOCUSSED ON THE
SERIES OF MEETINGS PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ IS HOLDING WITH
THE VARIOUS COMPONENTS OF HIS UCD REGARDING THE POSSIBLE
TRANSFORMATION OF THE ELECTORAL ALLIANCE INTO A FEDERATION
OR EVEN A SINGLE PARTY. AS A FIRST STEP, A SET OF RULES
TO GOVERN THE UCD'S PARLIAMENTARY BLOC HAS BEEN DRAFTED,
AND LITTLE DIFFICULTY IS EXPECTED IN REACHING AGREEMENT
ON IT.

2 THE Q QUESTION OF A SINGLE PARTY, ON THE OTHER HAND,
HAS CLEARLY DIVIDED OPINION, BOTH WITHIN THE COALITION
AND IN THE PRESS (THE OFTEN PRO-SUAREZ DIARIO 16, FOR
EXAMPLE, IS SHARPLY CRITICAL OF SUAREZ' EFFORT WHILE YA
IS REPORTING THE MATTER SYMPATHETICALLY). PARTIDO POPULAR
AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADERS REPORTEDLY ARE
PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH EVEN A SINGLE PARTY, BUT OTHER
COMPONENTS ARE HET TO BE HEARD FROM, AND MAY HARBOR THE
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FEELING THAT IT IS TOO MUCH TOO SOON. SUAREZ IS APPRENTLY
USING THE ARGUMENT THAT THE JUNE 15 VICTORY WAS HIS. IN
FACT, WITH THE LESSON OF THE SHATTERING ELECTORAL FAILURE
OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WHO REFUSED TO JOIN THE
COALITION STILL FRESH I THE MINDS OF ALL, AND WITH THE
PROCESS OF APPOINTING THE NEW GOVT DELIBERATELY DELAYED
PENDING RESOLUTION OF THE SINGLE -PARTY ISSUE, IT IS LIKELY

FEW IF ANY UCD MEMBERS WILL CHOOSE INDEPENDENCE.

3. SUAREZ ALSO RECEIVED PCE SEC GEN SANTIAGO CARRILLO IN HIS OFFICE, AN OCCASION HEAVILY FEATURED IN THE PRESS FOR ITS SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE. THOUGH SUAREZ HAS SPOKEN WITH HIS REAL RIVAL ON THE LEFT, GONZALEZ, BY PHONE THEY HAVE NOT MET SINCE THE ELECTIONS BUT SPECULATION HAS IT THAT THEY WILL SHORTLY. CARRILLO AFTERWARDS TOLD REPORTERS SUAREZ IS SEEKING "ACERTAIN AGREEMENT WITH THE LEFT", ASSERTED NO "NON-AGRESSION PACT" HAD BEEN SIGNED, AND DECLARED SUAREZ HAD SHOWN NO SIGN OF NERVOUSNESS OVER THE POSSIBLE OPPOSITION TO THE PCE'S BECOMING PART OF THE NORMAL POLITICAL PICTURE. IN A RELATED STORY, THE PRESS HAD REPORTED THAT CARRILLO AND PCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MANUEL AZCARATE ARE TO ATTEND THE KING'S RECEPTION JUNE 24 (HIS NAME-DAY).
STABLER

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